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Chariton Courier.

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WOMEN'S SCORN

(Continued from Page Two)

tion lay in that to the eye she was a some other dog's mouth. As he put handsome animal; perhaps she fasci- on his mittens to go, the talk turned nated him with her old world talk of upon Flossie and in natural sequence palaces and princes; leastwise she daz- passed on to the-"er bornd woman." zled him whose life had been worked Sitka Charley remarked incidentally out in uncultured roughness, and he that she intended jumping out down at last agreed to her suggestion of a river that night with Floyd Vanderrun down the river and a marriage lip and further ventured the informaat Forty Mile. In token of his in- tion that accidents were very likely tention be bought dogs from Sitka at that time of the year. nayi takes to the trail-and then went wrote a note, addressed it to the man up the creek to give orders for the in question, and intrusted it to a mesduring his absence.

that he needed the animals for sled. ed at that strategic point. would strike out after him at once to dig up the costume used at the

and inform him of the unhappy delay. Opera House a couple of months beby that time? It was too bad, but it proximity. was the fault of the shameless one jumped \$50 per head, and should be sharp. Don't fail me," he said to buy on the rising market he would Sitka Charley, who dropped in with if Mr. Vanderlip would be willing to ing to fill the bill, and that one would about it 7She was kind to so look to the ball." his interests. Friday night, did she say? Good! The dogs would be on hand.

An hour later, Freda knew the clopnight; also, that Floyd Vanderlip had gone up-creek, and her hands were tied. On Friday morning, Devereaux, the official courier bearing dispatches from the Governor, arrived over the Besides the dispatches, he brought news of Flossie. He had passed her camp at Sixty Mile; humans and dogs were in good condition and she would doubtless be in on the morrow. Mrs. Eppingwell experienced a great relief on hearing this; Floyd Vanderlip was safe up-creek and ere the Greek girl could again lay hands upon him, his bride would be on the ground. But that afternoon her big St. Bernard, valiantly defending her front stoop, was drowned by a foraging party of trail-starved KEYTESVIILE. - MISSOURI. Malemutes. He was buried beneath the hirsute mass for about 30 seconds when rescued by a couple of axes and as many stout men. Had he remained down two minutes, the chances were 11.00 large that he would have been roughly apportioned and earried away in the respective bellies of the attacking party; but as it was, it was a mere case of neat and expeditious mangling, Sitka Charley came to repair the damages, especially a right forepaw which had inadvertently been Perhaps the model-woman's attractile a fraction of a second too long in

Charley-more than one sled is neces. 'So Mrs. Eppingwell's thoughts of sary when a woman like Loraine Lisz. Freda were unkinder than ever, She superintendence of his Bonanza mines senger who lay in wait at the month of Bonanza Creek, Another man, He had given it out, rather vaguely, bearing a note from Freda, also wait-

ding lumber from the mill to his slui- So it happened that Floyd Vanderces, and right here is where Sitka lip, riding his sled merrily down with date, but no sooner had Floyd Van- No, he would not go to see her. There He could swear it by the furs, did derlip turned his toes up-creek, than was greater things afoot that night, he not know that poise of head so Charley hied himself away in pert- Besides, she was out of the running well. The last one to expect in all urbation to Loraine Lisznayi. Did But Mrs. Eppingwell! He would obthe world. He had given her better she know where Mr. Vanderlip had serve her last wish-or rather, the gone? He had agreed to supply that last wish it would be possible for him gentleman with a big string of dogs to observe—and meet her at the Govby a certain time, but that shameless ernor's ball to hear what she had to one, the German trader Myers, had say. From the tone of the writing been buying up the brutes and skimp- it was evidently important; perhapsed the market. It was very necessary He smiley fondly, but failed to shape he should see Mr. Vanderlip, because the thought. Confound it all, what of the shameless one he would be all a lucky fellow he was with the woof a week behindhand in filling the men anyway! Scattering her letter contract. She did not know where he to the frost he musked his cabin. It had gone? Up-creek? Good! He was to be a masquerade, and he had

Did he understand her to say that fore. Also he had to shave and to Mr. Vanderlip needed the dogs on Fri eat. Thus it was that he, alone of all day night? that he must have them interested, was unaware of Flossie's

"Have them down to the waterwho had bid up the prices. They had hole off the hospital, at midnight, lose by the contract. He wondered the advice that only one dog was lackmeet the advance. She knew he be forthcoming in an hour or so. would? Being Mr. Vanderlip's friend "Here's the sack, There's the scales, she would even meet the difference Weigh out your own dust and don't herself? And he was to say nothing bother me. I've got to get ready for

Sitka Charley weighed out his pay and departed earrying with him a letter to Loraine Lisznayi, the contents of which he correctly imagined to rement was to be pulled off on Friday fer to a meeting at the water-hole off the hospital, at midnight, sharp.

IV.

Twice Freda sent messengers up to the Barracks, where the dance was in full swing, and as often they came back without answers. Then she did what only Freda could do-put on her furs, masked ber face, and went up herself to the Governor's ball. Now there happened to be a custom-not an original one by any means-to which the official clique had long since become addicted. It was a very wise enston, for it furnished protection to the womankind of the officials and gave greater selectness to their revels. Whenever a masquerade was given, a committee was chosen, the sole function of which was to stand by the door and peep beneath each and every mask. Most men did not elamor to be placed upon this committee, while the very ones who least desired the honor were the ones whose service were most required. The chaplain was not well enough acquainted with the faces and places of the townspecple to know to know whom to admit and whom to tarn away. In like conditions were the several other worthy geotlemen who would have asked nothing better than to so serve. To fill the coveted place, Mrs. McFee would have risked her chance to salvation, and did, one night, when a certain trio passed in under her guns and muddled things considerably before beir identity was discovered. Thereafter only the fit were chosen, and very ungracefully did they respond.

brought to bear, and be had not yet. recovered from amaze at his baving consented to undertake a task which bid fair to lose him half his friends. merely for the sake of pleasing the other half. Three or four of the men he had refused were men whom he ing the expediency of resigning the judgment than to thus venture the ignomiy of refusal, or, if she passed, the scorn of women. He sbook his head, without scrutiny; he knew her too well to be mistaken. But she pressed closer. Size lifted the black silk ribbon and as quickly lowered it again, For one flashing, eternal second he looked upon her face. It was not for nothing, the saying which had arisem in the country, that Freda played with men as a child with bubbles. Not a word was spoken. Prince stepped aside, and a few moments with warm incoherence, the post to which he had been unfaithful.

On this particular night Prince was

at the door. Pressure had been

yet rhythmie of strength in every movement, now pausing with this group, now scanning that, urged a I understand." revellers. Men recognized the fors, restless and devious course among the and marvelled-men who should have served upon the door committee; but they were not prone to speech. Not so with the women. They had better eyes for the lines of figure and tricks 4 of carriage, and they knew this form to be one with which they were unfamiliar; tikewise the fors, Mrs. Me-Fee, emerging form the supper room where all was in readiness, caught one flash of the blazing, questing eyes through the silken mask-slits, and received a start. She tried to reciliest where she had seen the like, and a vivid pictur was recalled of a captain proud and rebellious signer whom she had once encountered on a

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forred woman prefaced her immedia she had hanted the prev into mission for them to draw a little

panying it in its descent was a black destroyer of nea; the woman from mask torn from a startled woman. A wonderful face and brilliant eyes those who looked that way, and they Perhaps it was this, her Saxon disdepth, while he hardly knew where been a little of both; but be that as him. Mrs. Eppingwell was perplexed. When Mrs. McFee's thin voice, xi-She could not comprehend. An exstepped aside, and a few moments planation was forthcoming, some-later might have been seen resigning where, and Mrs. McFee was equal to pingweil also turned, removed her lively, and quit as

"Mrs. Eppingwell," and her Celtin knowledgement. A woman, flexible of form, slender, voice rose shrilly, "it is with great ! It was another flashing, eternal see pleasure I make you acquainted with ond, during which these two women Freds Moloof, Miss Freds Moloof, as regarded each other. The one eyes

portunity to talk with the man. She dothed features and graming eyes a beautiful, burning, bubbling lava foregog, the kill.

But here Mrs. Eppingwell did a Freds. Not so, had she been of Then it was that Mrs. McFee's strange thing. So this, at last, was breed; but her soul's pl were exposed to the quiet curiosity of nakedness as though it were her own. were everybody. Floyd Vanderlip inclination to meet a disadvantaged ond. "Spit upon me, revile me, and was rather confused. The situation foe, perhaps, forscoth, that it might it were greater mercy than this!" demanded instant action on the part give her greater strength in the strug- | trembled. Her mostrile distended and of a man who was not beyond his gle for the man, and it might have be was. He stared belplessly about it may, she did this strange thing. head, and turned to the man. brant with malice, had mised, and musk, and inclined her head in ac-

Freda involuntarily turned. With suffering in advance and recenting in her own face bared, she felt as in a advance the scorn and ridicule and dream, naked, upon her turned the insult she had thrown herself open to:

had determined, now that Flossie was of the masked circle. It seemed, al- cone of flesh and spirit. And the so near at hand, to proceed directly most, as though a hungry wolf-pack other, calm-eyed, cool-browed, serene; to the point, and an incisive little | girdled her, ready to drag her down. strong in her own integrity, with faith ethical discourse was titiflating on the It might chance that some felt pity in herself, thoroughly at case; disend of her tongue, when the couple for her, she thought, and at the passionate, imperturbable; a figure had known on creek and trail-good became three. She noted, and pleas- thought, hardeened. She would by chiselled from some cold marble quarcomrades, but not exactly eligible for urably, the faintly foreign accent of far prefer their scorn. Strong of ry. Whatever gulf there might exist, the "Beg pardon" with which the heart was she, this woman, and though she recognized it not. No bridging ate appropriation of Floyd Vanderlip; midst of the pack, Mrs. Eppingwell of perfect equality. She stood trantripped in under the light. Fredai and she courteously bowed her per- or no Mrs. Eppingwell, she could not quilty on the ground of their comshe, too, felt the imperious creature's "Why do you not draw back your

(Continued Next Week)



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